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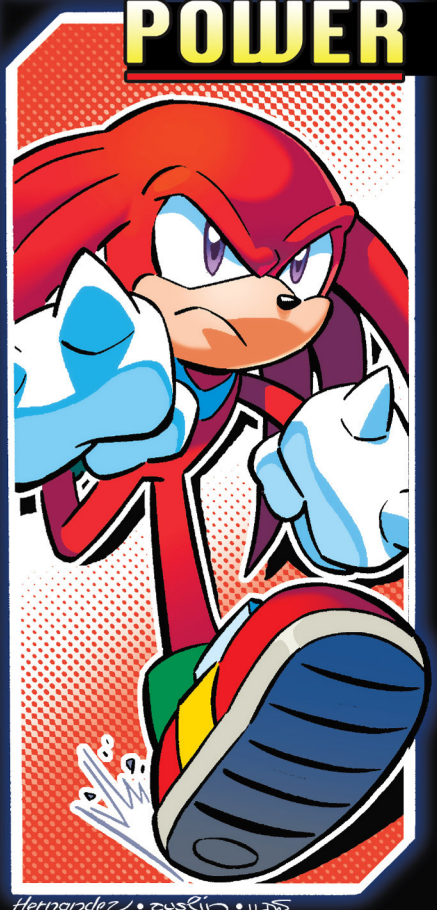
SONIC™ THE HEDGEHOG

CHAMPIONS
#3
OF 4

SEGA®

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG | 270



Hernandez • Gusman • Herr

SELECT YOUR ABILITY

Welcome to Sonic's comic book adventures – A world unique & beyond what you know from the SEGA games! Where Sonic and his friends work to save the world from the forces of evil!

CHARACTER SELECT

SONIC™ THE HEDGEHOG

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG
SUPER-SPEEDY HERO

HONEY THE CAT & AMY ROSE
FIGHTING FASHION DIVA & HAMMER-SWINGING HEROINE

KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA
HUNTING FOR THE MASTER EMERALD SHARDS

BEAN THE DUCK & NACK THE WEASEL
DYNAMITE GOOF-BALL & FANGED SNIPER

PREVIOUSLY...

THE FINAL FIGHTS!

Sonic and his friends are on the hunt for the Chaos Emeralds to save the world!

They've entered Breezie's fighting tournament to win the Green Chaos Emerald, but it isn't just a straightforward competition. Dr. Eggman has hired the Hooligans to infiltrate the brackets, and Knuckles has shown up as the wildest of wild cards!

The tournament now enters its final round of eliminations...

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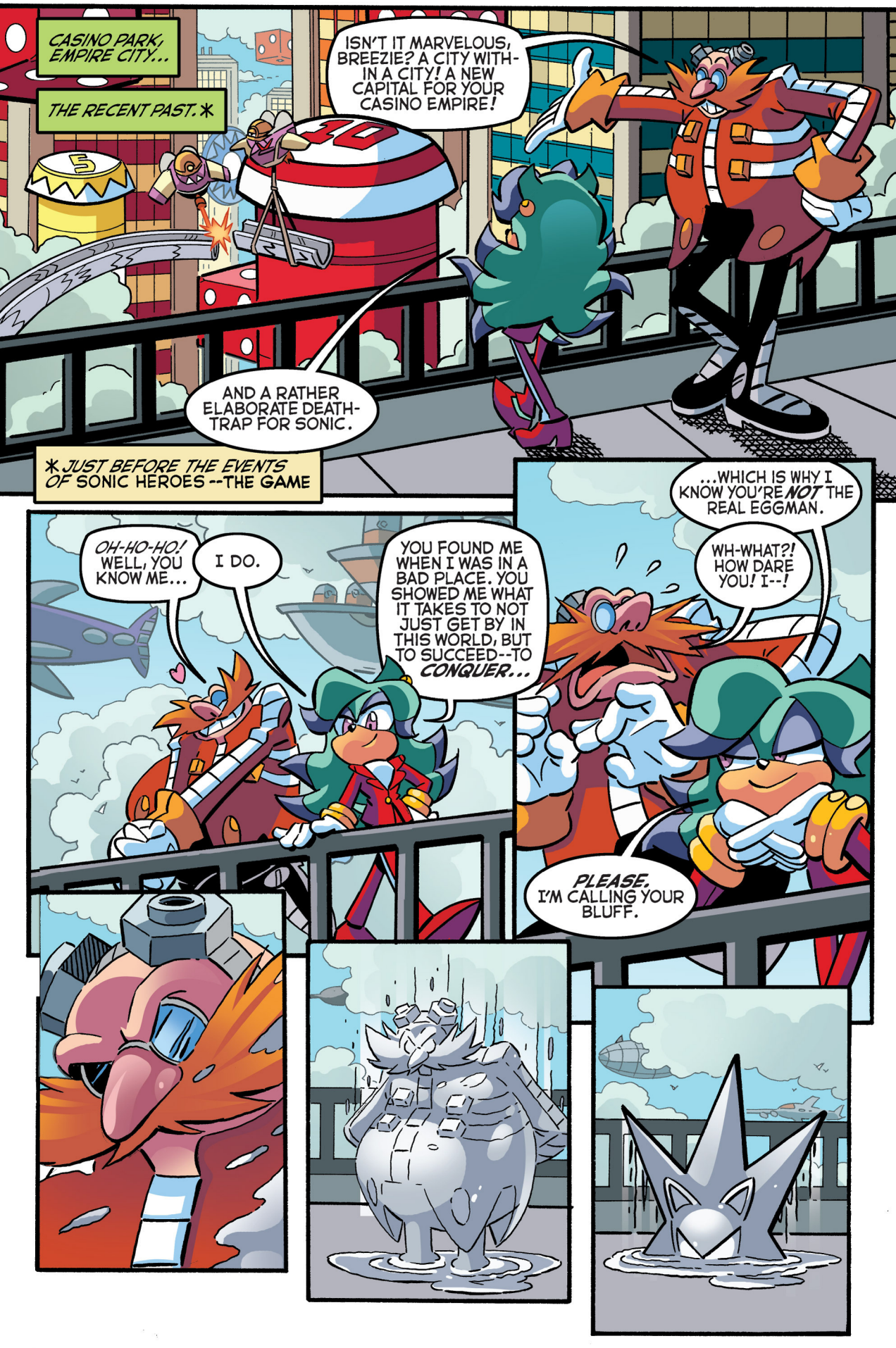
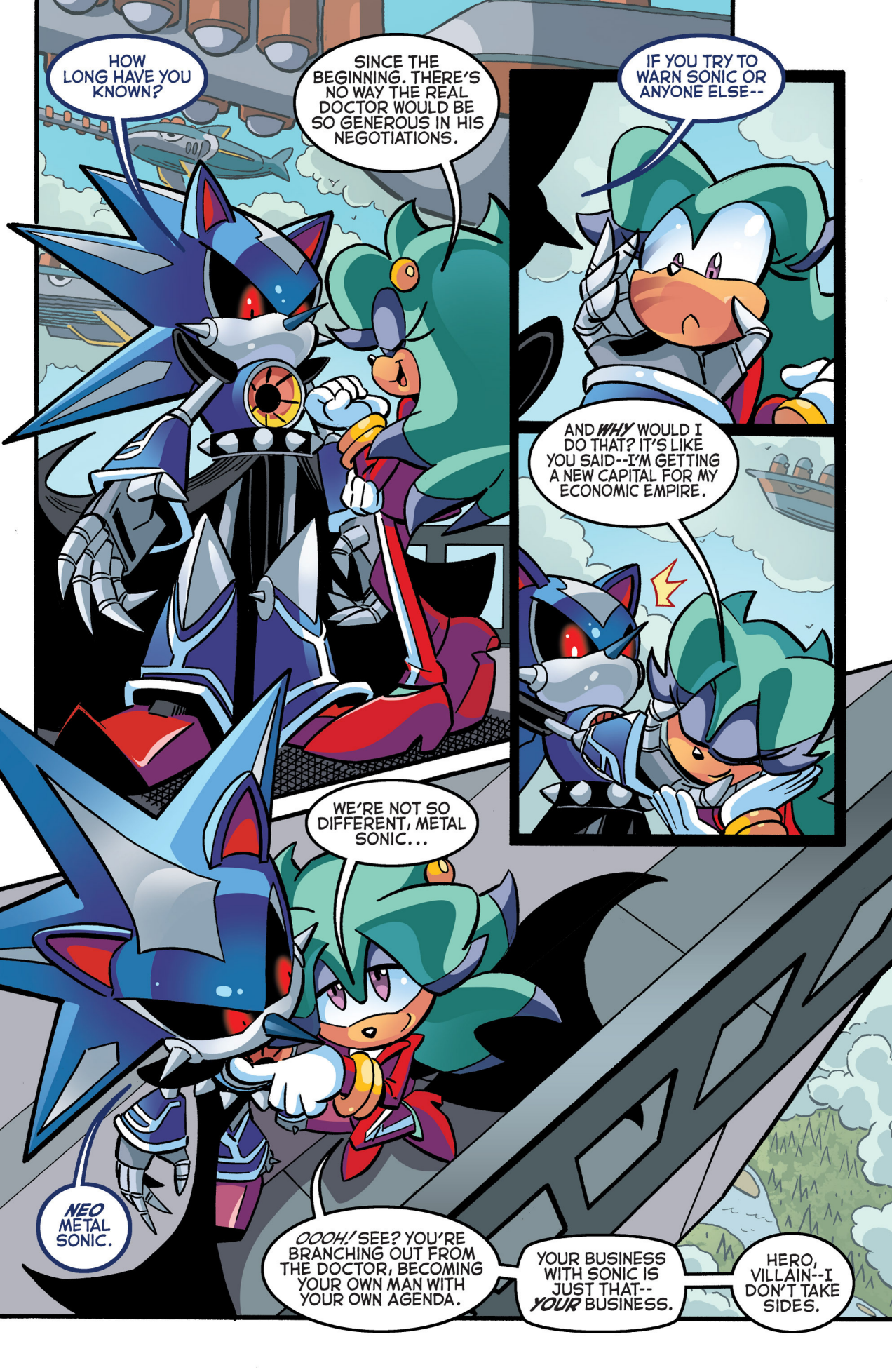
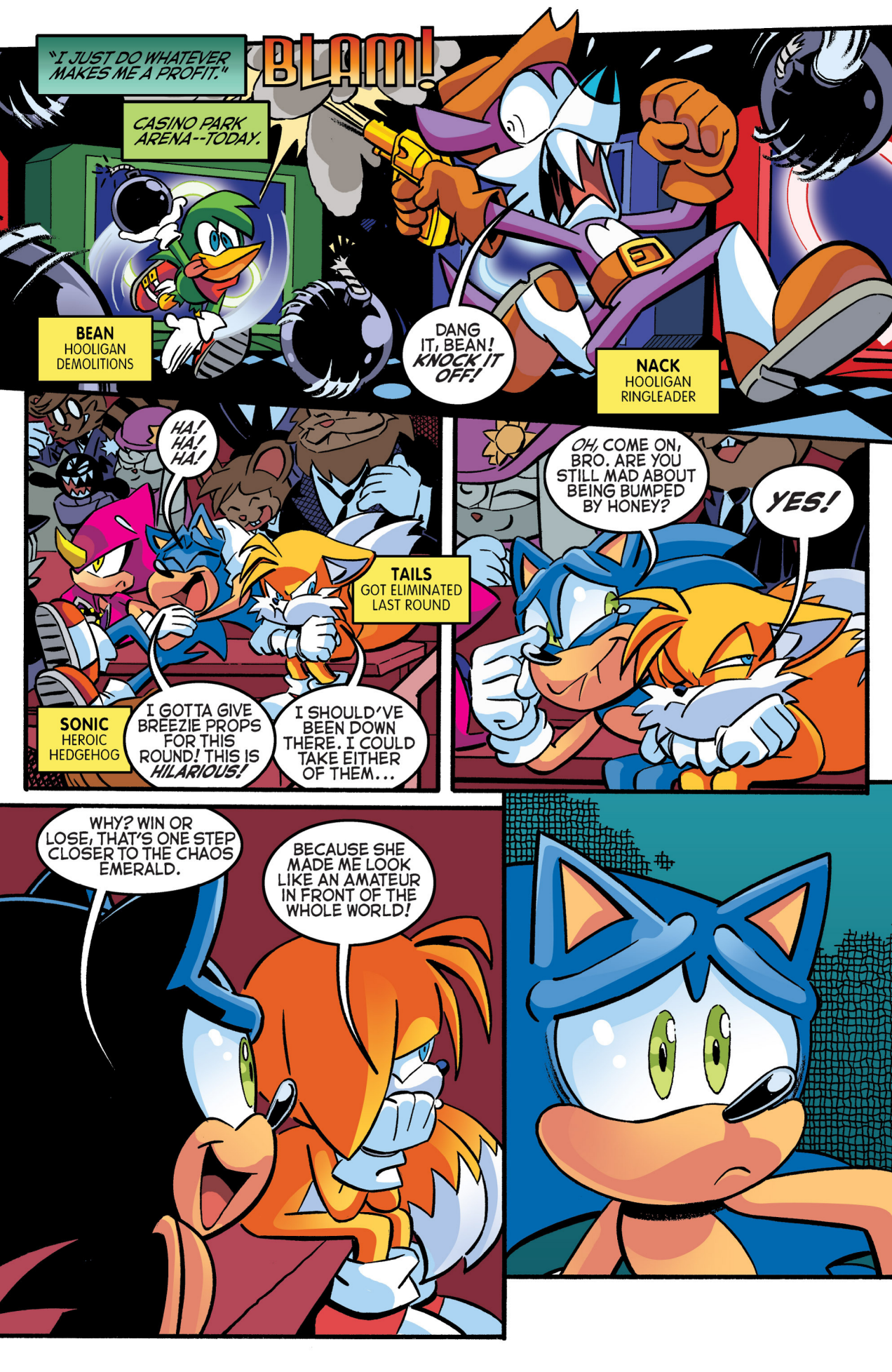
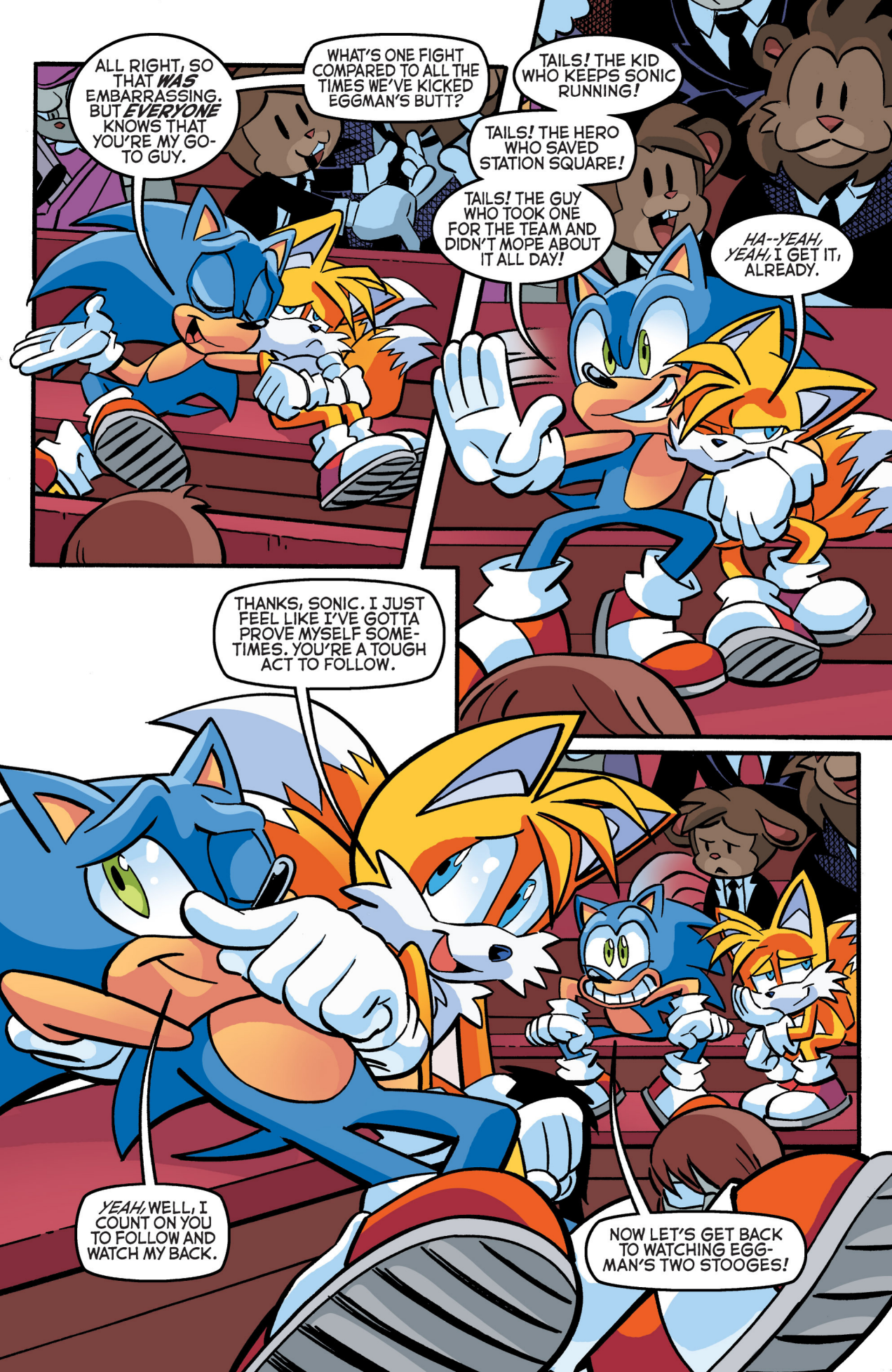
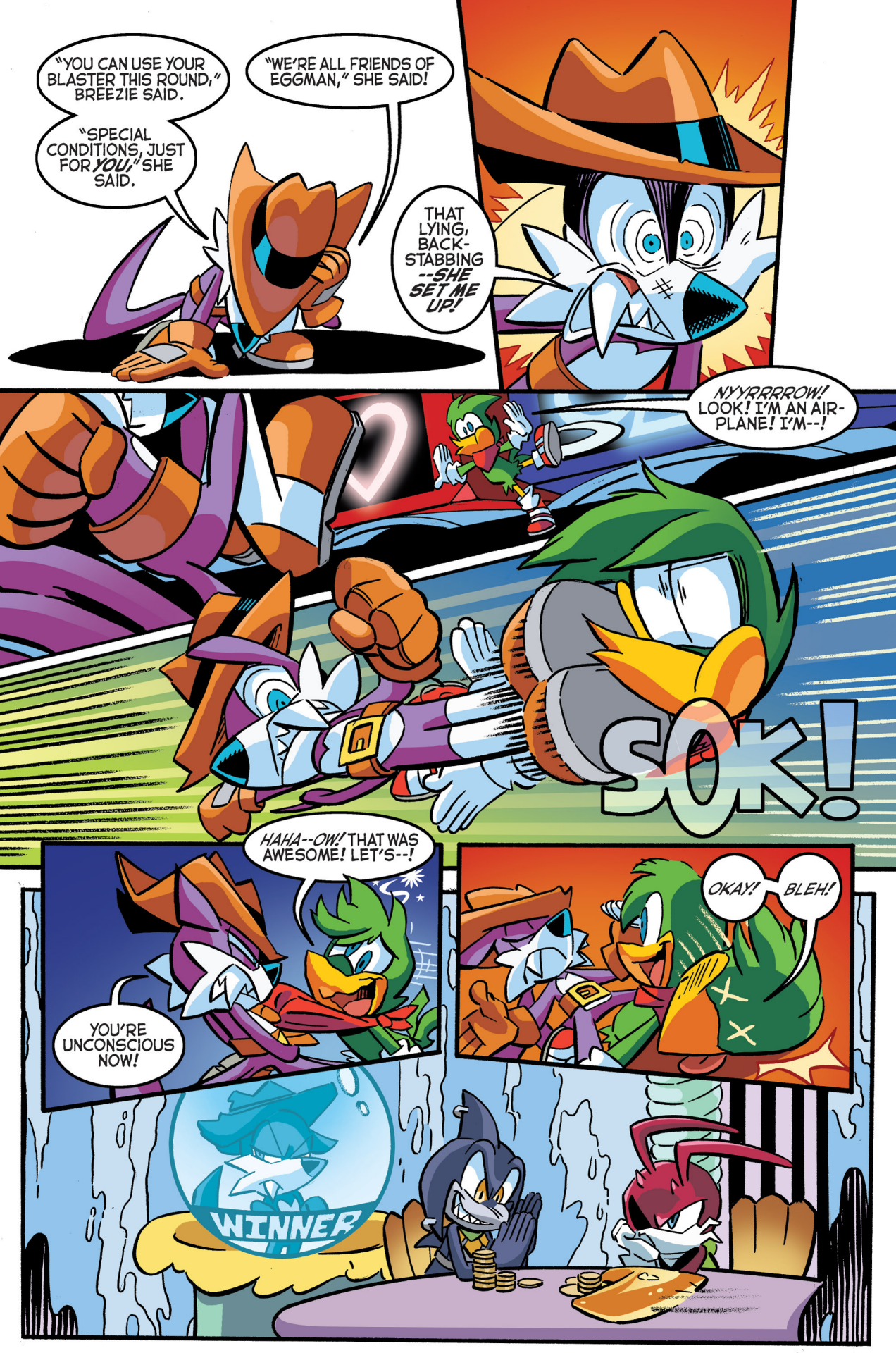

CASINO PARK, EMPIRE CITY...
THE RECENT PAST.*
ISN'T IT MARVELOUS, BREEZIE? A CITY WITHIN A CITY! A NEW CAPITAL FOR YOUR CASINO EMPIRE!
AND A RATHER ELABORATE DEATH-TRAP FOR SONIC.
*JUST BEFORE THE EVENTS OF SONIC HEROES --THE GAME
OH-HO-HO! WELL, YOU KNOW ME...
I DO.
YOU FOUND ME WHEN I WAS IN A BAD PLACE. YOU SHOWED ME WHAT IT TAKES TO NOT JUST GET BY IN THIS WORLD, BUT TO SUCCEED--TO CONQUER...
...WHICH IS WHY I KNOW YOU'RE NOT THE REAL EGGMAN.
WH-WHAT?! HOW DARE YOU! I--!
PLEASE. I'M CALLING YOUR BLUFF.

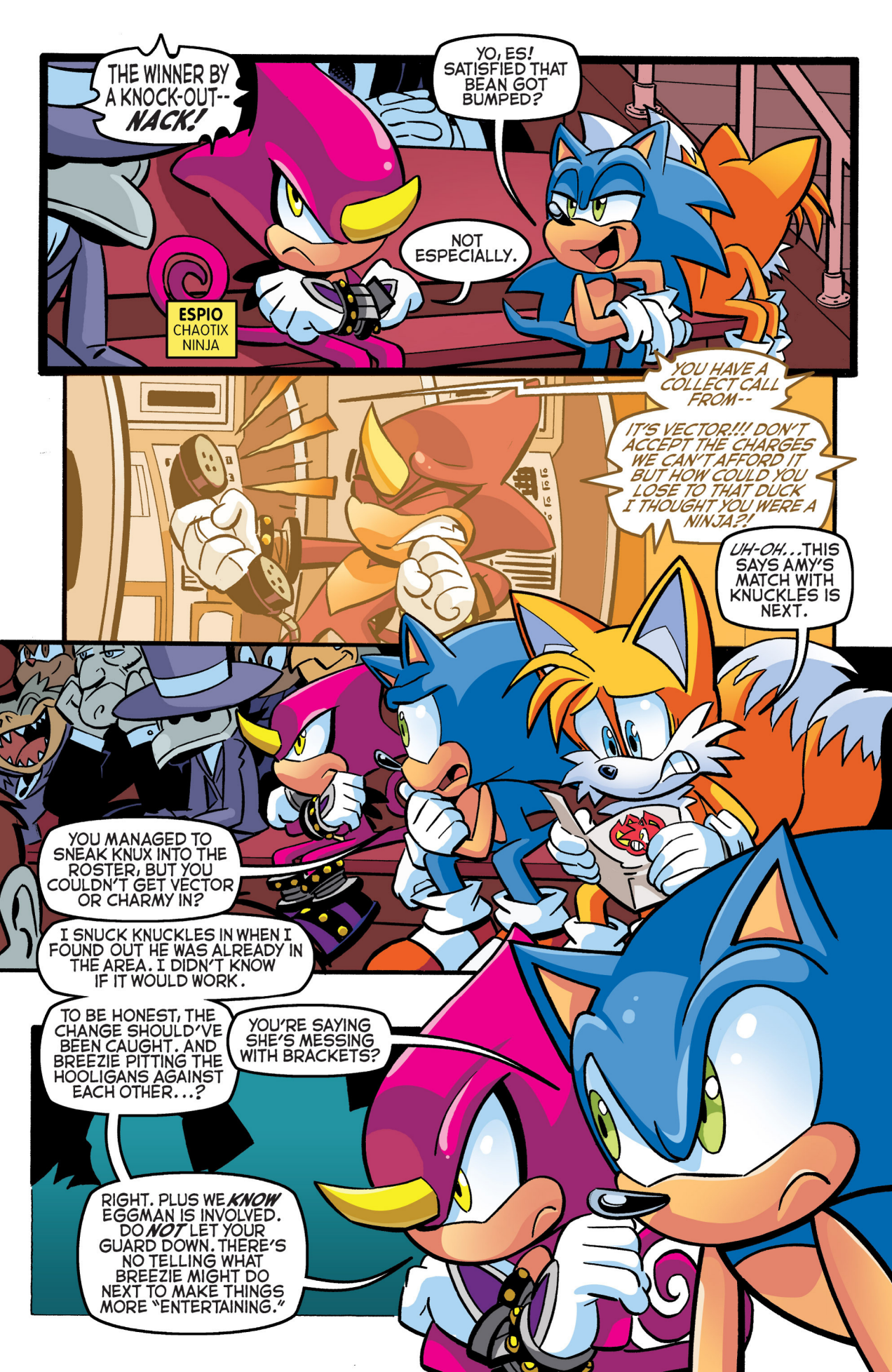

HOW LONG HAVE YOU KNOWN?
SINCE THE BEGINNING. THERE'S NO WAY THE REAL DOCTOR WOULD BE SO GENEROUS IN HIS NEGOTIATIONS.
IF YOU TRY TO WARN SONIC OR ANYONE ELSE--
AND *WHY* WOULD I DO THAT? IT'S LIKE YOU SAID--I'M GETTING A NEW CAPITAL FOR MY ECONOMIC EMPIRE.
WE'RE NOT SO DIFFERENT, METAL SONIC...
NEO METAL SONIC.
OOOH! SEE? YOU'RE BRANCHING OUT FROM THE DOCTOR, BECOMING YOUR OWN MAN WITH YOUR OWN AGENDA.
YOUR BUSINESS WITH SONIC IS JUST THAT-- *YOUR* BUSINESS.
HERO, VILLAIN--I DON'T TAKE SIDES.

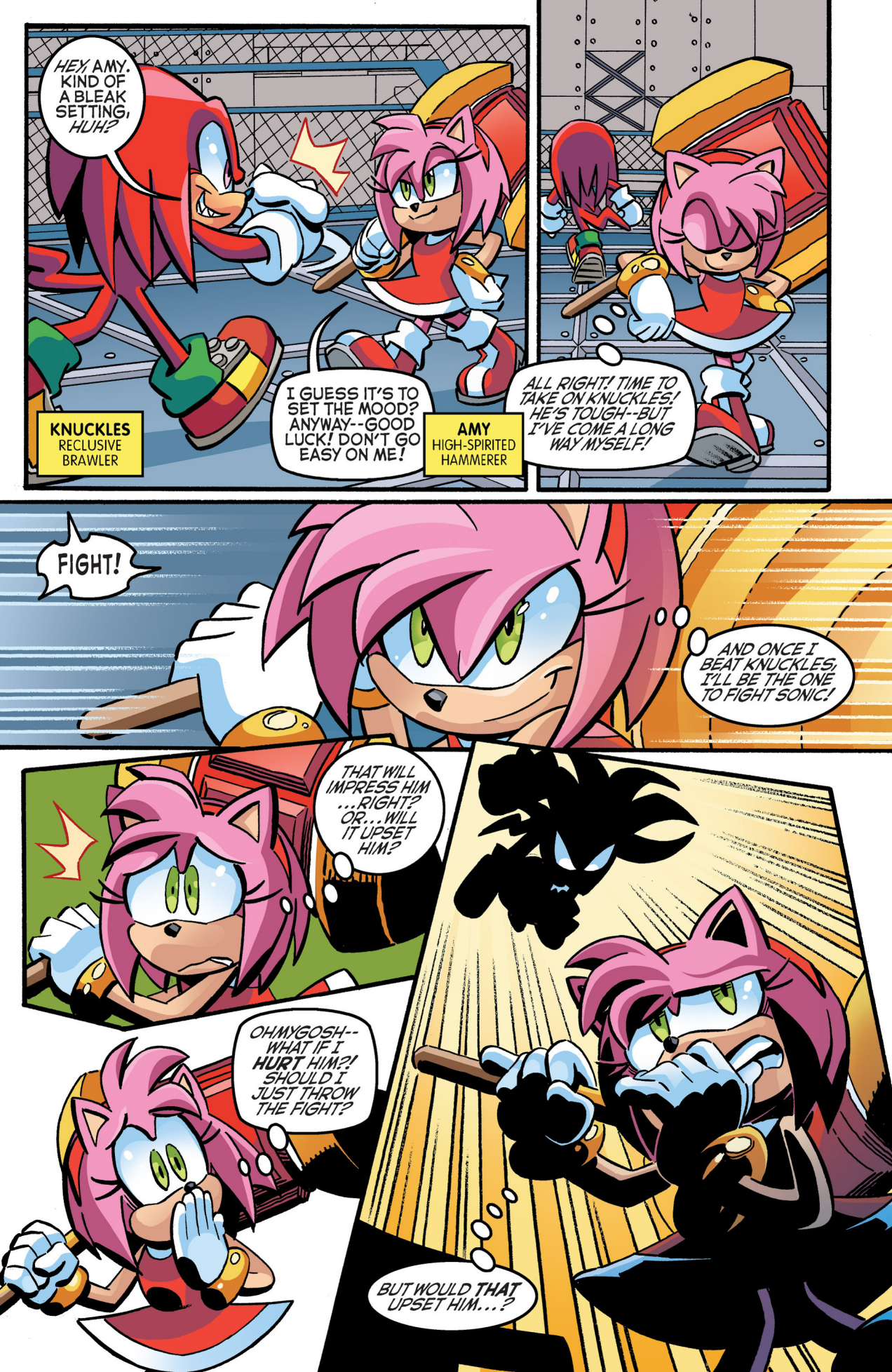

"I JUST DO WHATEVER MAKES ME A PROFIT."
BLAM!
CASINO PARK ARENA--TODAY.
BEAN HOOLIGAN DEMOLITIONS
DANG IT, BEAN! KNOCK IT OFF!
NACK HOOLIGAN RINGLEADER
HA! HA! HA!
TAILS GOT ELIMINATED LAST ROUND
SONIC HEROIC HEDGEHOG
I GOTTA GIVE BREEZIE PROPS FOR THIS ROUND! THIS IS HILARIOUS!
I SHOULD'VE BEEN DOWN THERE. I COULD TAKE EITHER OF THEM...
OH, COME ON, BRO. ARE YOU STILL MAD ABOUT BEING BUMPED BY HONEY?
YES!
WHY? WIN OR LOSE, THAT'S ONE STEP CLOSER TO THE CHAOS EMERALD.
BECAUSE SHE MADE ME LOOK LIKE AN AMATEUR IN FRONT OF THE WHOLE WORLD!


ALL RIGHT, SO THAT *WAS* EMBARRASSING. BUT *EVERYONE* KNOWS THAT YOU'RE MY GO-TO GUY.
WHAT'S ONE FIGHT COMPARED TO ALL THE TIMES WE'VE KICKED EGGMAN'S BUTT?
TAILS! THE KID WHO KEEPS SONIC RUNNING!
TAILS! THE HERO WHO SAVED STATION SQUARE!
TAILS! THE GUY WHO TOOK ONE FOR THE TEAM AND DIDN'T MOPE ABOUT IT ALL DAY!
HA--YEAH, YEAH, I GET IT, ALREADY.
THANKS, SONIC. I JUST FEEL LIKE I'VE GOTTA PROVE MYSELF SOMETIMES. YOU'RE A TOUGH ACT TO FOLLOW.
YEAH, WELL, I COUNT ON YOU TO FOLLOW AND WATCH MY BACK.
NOW LET'S GET BACK TO WATCHING EGGMAN'S TWO STOOGES!

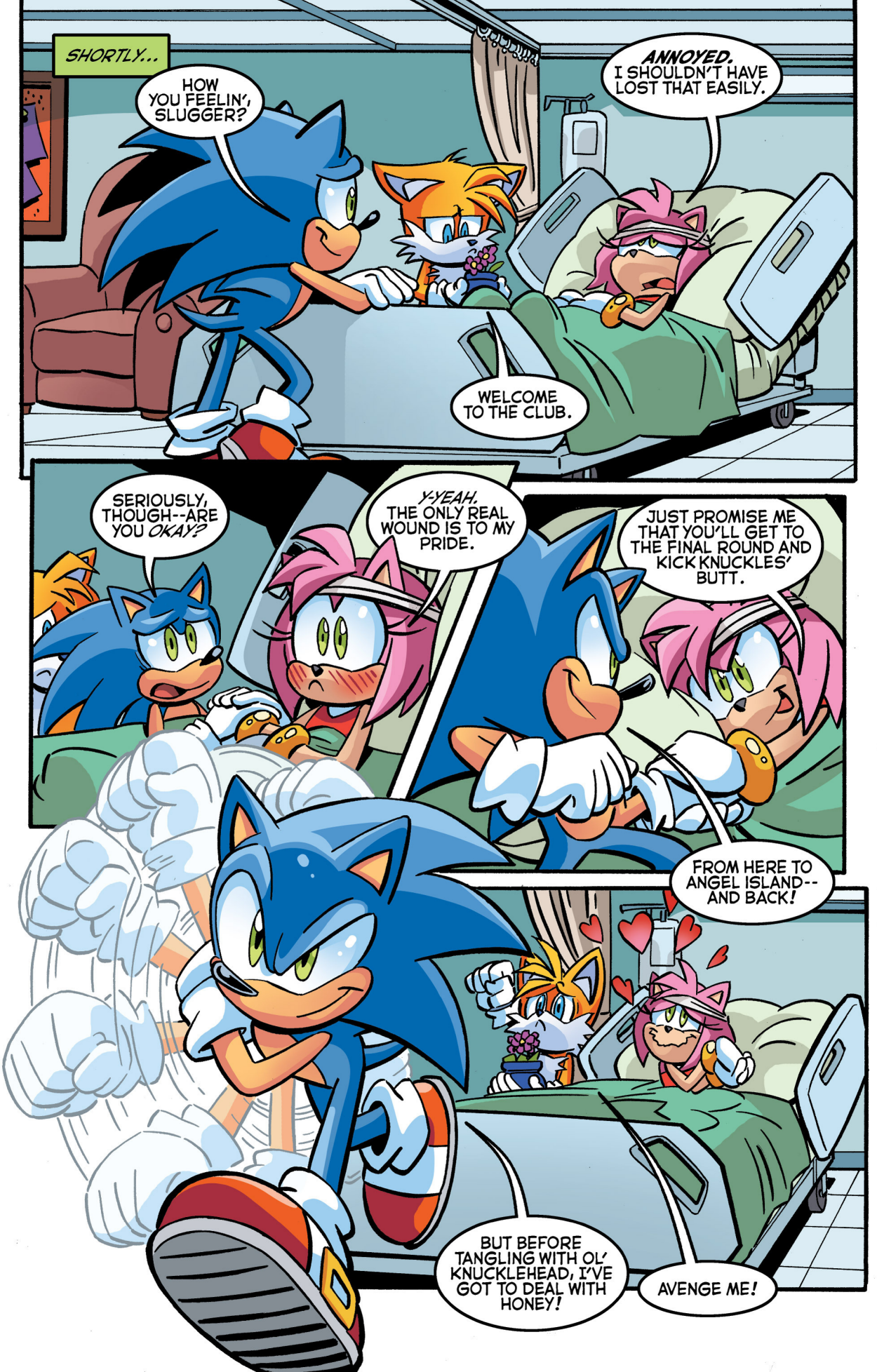
I'M HEAD OF THIS GANG!
I'M ORDERING YOU TO TAKE A DIVE FOR ME!
GRNK!
WAIT... WHAT EVENT IS THIS?
HEYYY...
...THAT PLUMBER LIED TO ME!


"YOU CAN USE YOUR BLASTER THIS ROUND," BREEZIE SAID.
"SPECIAL CONDITIONS, JUST FOR *YOU*," SHE SAID.
"WE'RE ALL FRIENDS OF EGGMAN," SHE SAID!
THAT LYING, BACK-STABBING --*SHE SET ME UP!*
NYYRRRROW! LOOK! I'M AN AIR-PLANE! I'M--!
SOK!
HAHA--OW! THAT WAS AWESOME! LET'S--!
YOU'RE UNCONSCIOUS NOW!
OKAY!
BLEH!
WINNER

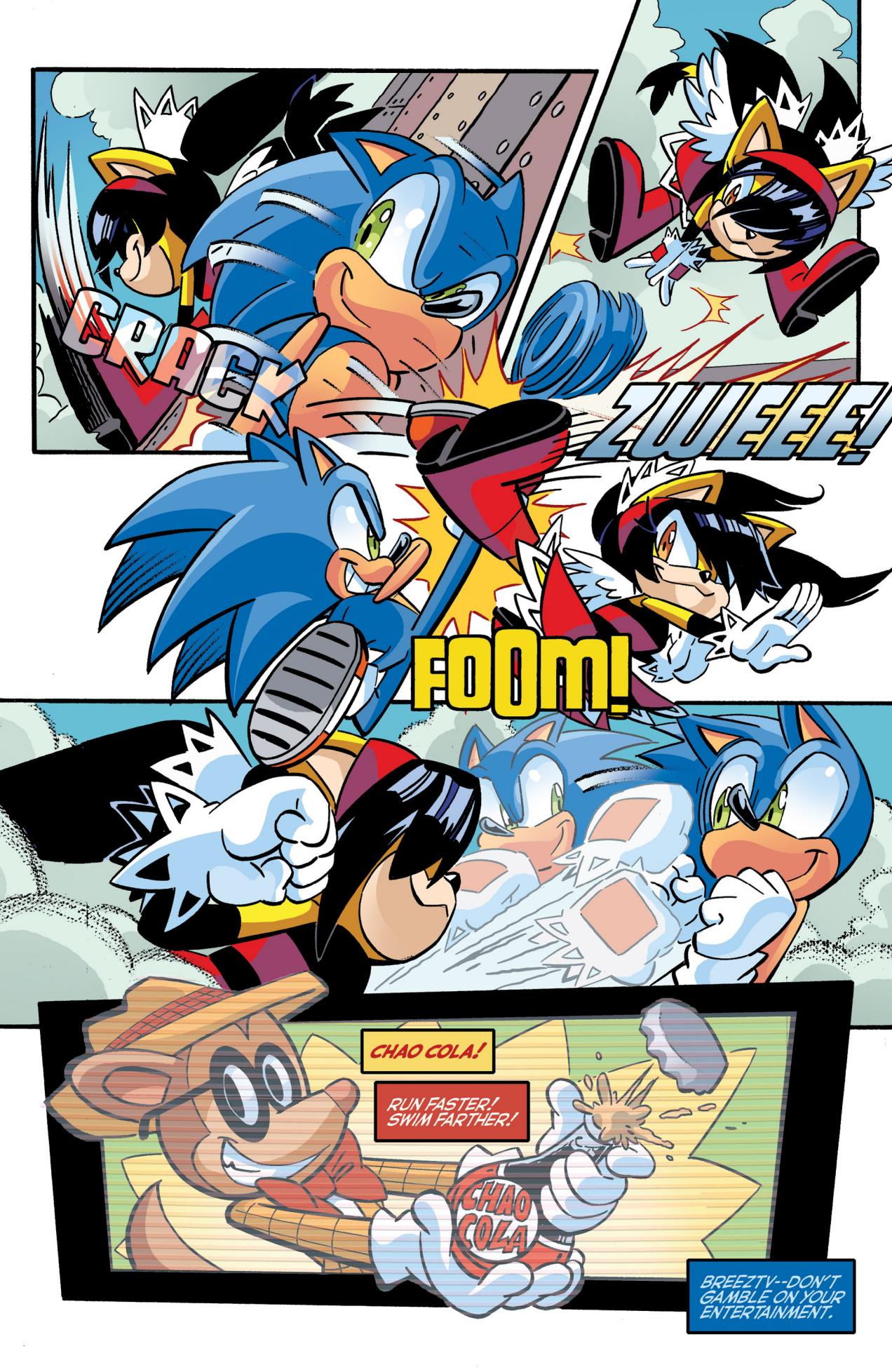

THE WINNER BY A KNOCK-OUT-- NACK!
YO, ES! SATISFIED THAT BEAN GOT BUMPED?
NOT ESPECIALLY.
ESPIO CHAOTIX NINJA
YOU HAVE A COLLECT CALL FROM--
IT'S VECTOR!!! DON'T ACCEPT THE CHARGES WE CAN'T AFFORD IT BUT HOW COULD YOU LOSE TO THAT DUCK I THOUGHT YOU WERE A NINJA?!
UH-OH...THIS SAYS AMY'S MATCH WITH KNUCKLES IS NEXT.
YOU MANAGED TO SNEAK KNUX INTO THE ROSTER, BUT YOU COULDN'T GET VECTOR OR CHARMY IN?
I SNUCK KNUCKLES IN WHEN I FOUND OUT HE WAS ALREADY IN THE AREA. I DIDN'T KNOW IF IT WOULD WORK.
TO BE HONEST, THE CHANGE SHOULD'VE BEEN CAUGHT. AND BREEZIE PITTING THE HOOLIGANS AGAINST EACH OTHER...?
YOU'RE SAYING SHE'S MESSING WITH BRACKETS?
RIGHT. PLUS WE KNOW EGGMAN IS INVOLVED. DO NOT LET YOUR GUARD DOWN. THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT BREEZIE MIGHT DO NEXT TO MAKE THINGS MORE "ENTERTAINING."

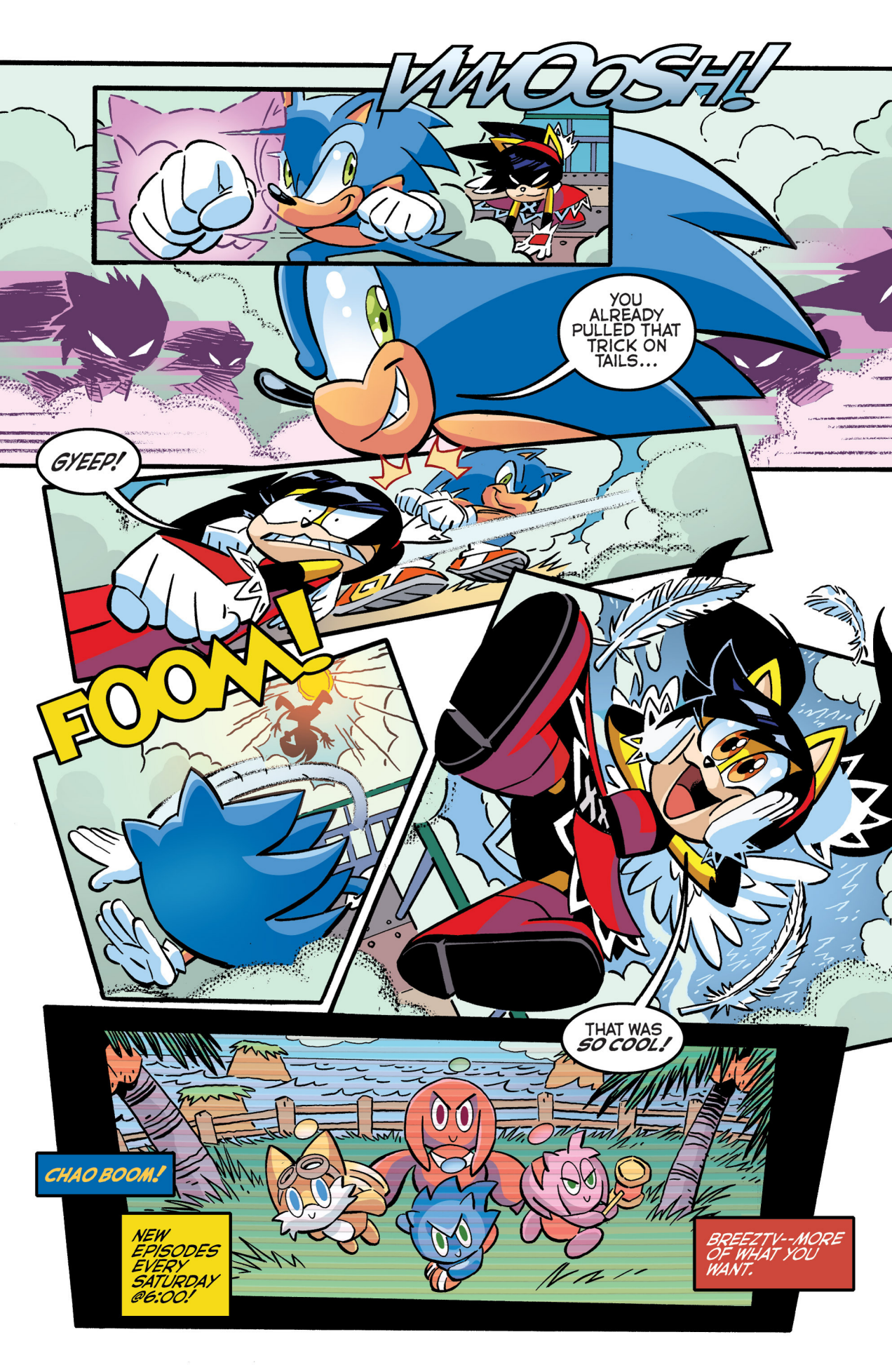

HEY, AMY. KIND OF A BLEAK SETTING, HUH?
KNUCKLES RECLUSIVE BRAWLER
I GUESS IT'S TO SET THE MOOD? ANYWAY--GOOD LUCK! DON'T GO EASY ON ME!
AMY HIGH-SPIRITED HAMMERER
ALL RIGHT! TIME TO TAKE ON KNUCKLES! HE'S TOUGH--BUT I'VE COME A LONG WAY MYSELF!
FIGHT!
AND ONCE I BEAT KNUCKLES, I'LL BE THE ONE TO FIGHT SONIC!
THAT WILL IMPRESS HIM ...RIGHT? OR...WILL IT UPSET HIM?
OHMYGOSH-- WHAT IF I HURT HIM?! SHOULD I JUST THROW THE FIGHT?
BUT WOULD THAT UPSET HIM...?

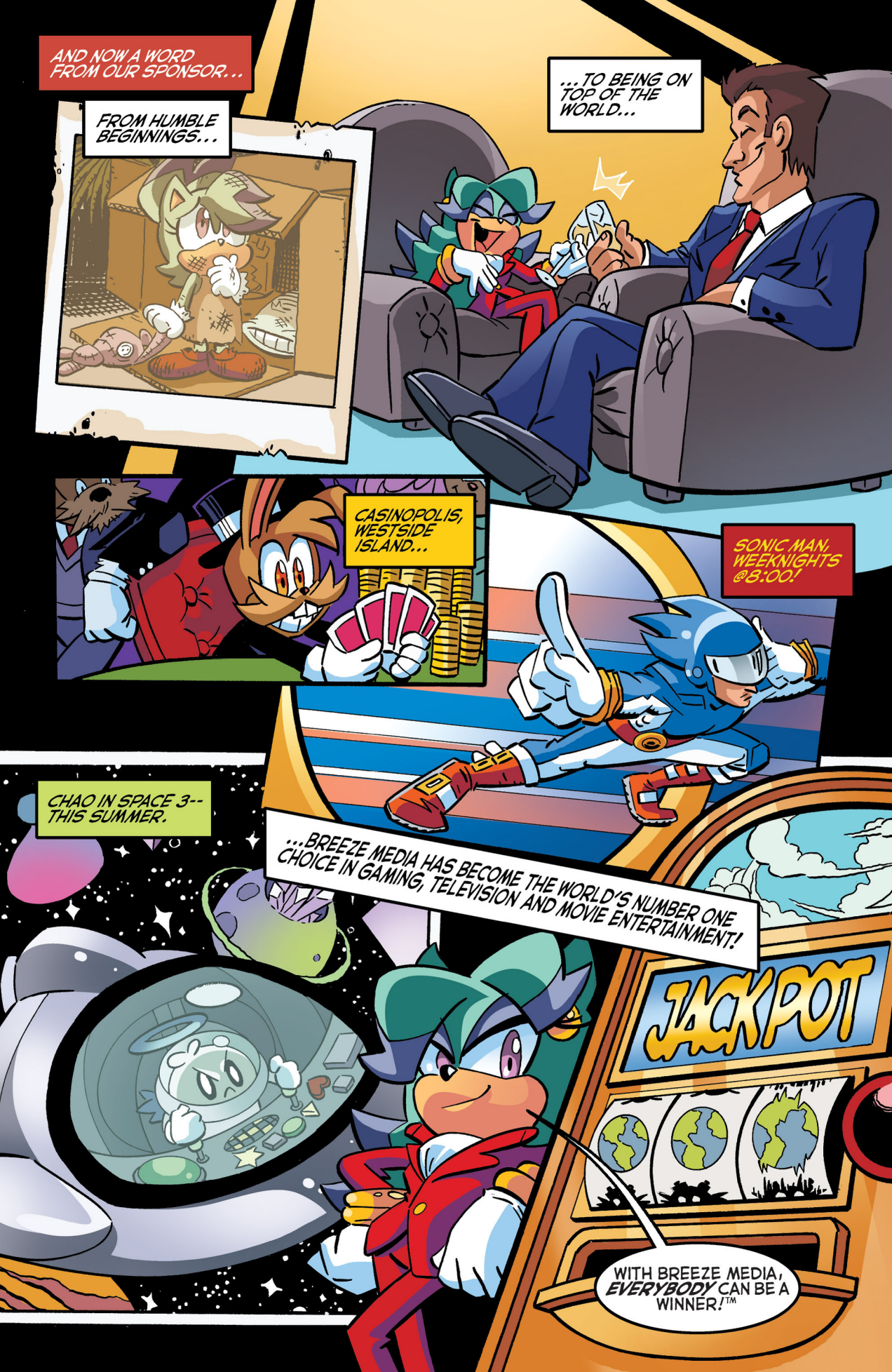
WHAM!
SLAM!
I...I THOUGHT WE WERE FIGHTING ...?
WINNER

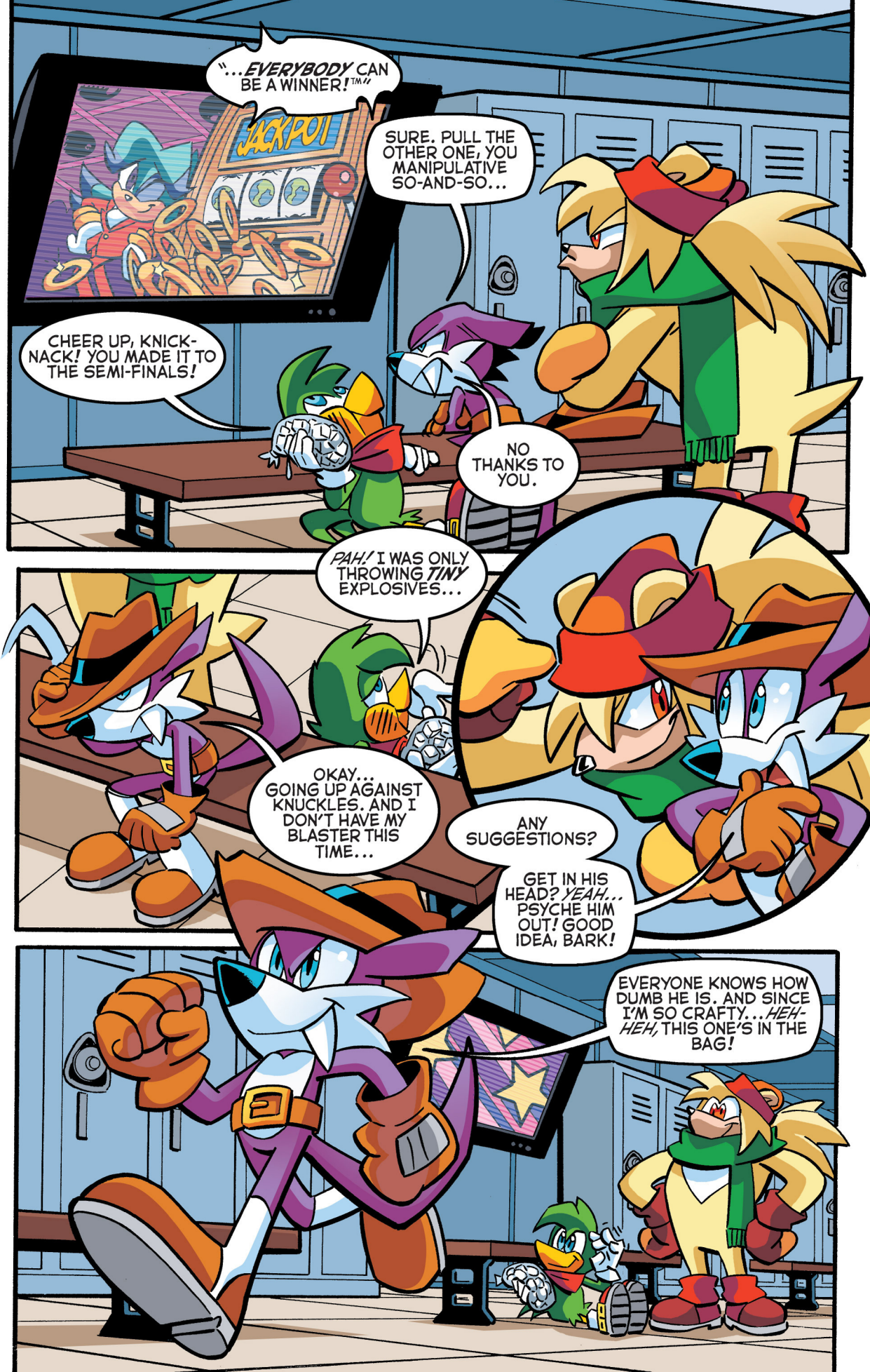

SHORTLY...
HOW YOU FEELIN', SLUGGER?
ANNOYED. I SHOULDN'T HAVE LOST THAT EASILY.
WELCOME TO THE CLUB.
SERIOUSLY, THOUGH--ARE YOU OKAY?
Y-YEAH. THE ONLY REAL WOUND IS TO MY PRIDE.
JUST PROMISE ME THAT YOU'LL GET TO THE FINAL ROUND AND KICK KNUCKLES' BUTT.
FROM HERE TO ANGEL ISLAND--AND BACK!
BUT BEFORE TANGLING WITH OL' KNUCKLEHEAD, I'VE GOT TO DEAL WITH HONEY!
AVENGE ME!

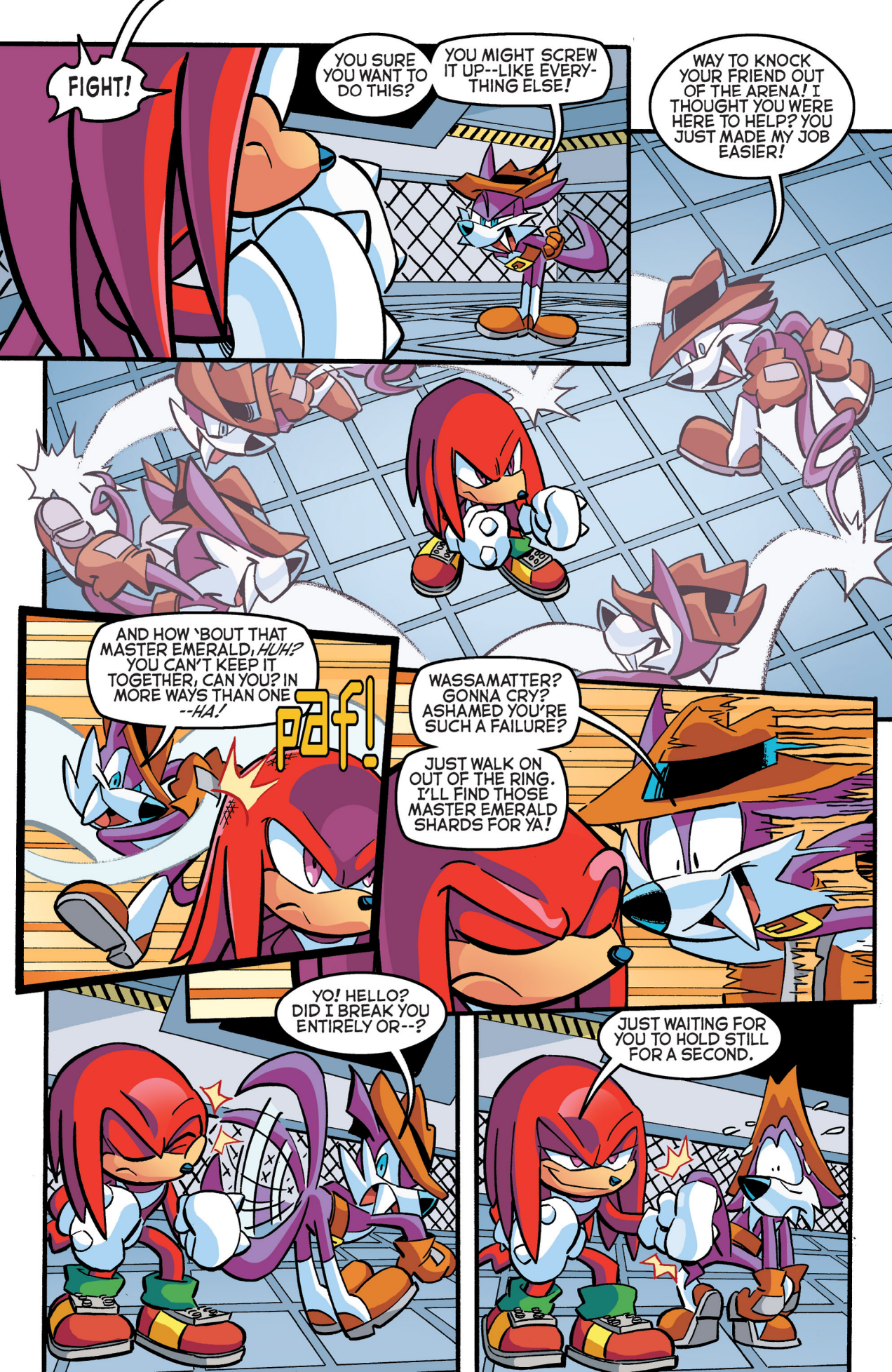
READY TO RUMBLE, LADY?
READY TO WIN?
HONEY
FASHIONABLE FIGHTER
YOU'RE GIVING UP?
LISTEN, I DON'T THINK I REALIZED HOW SERIOUS THIS WAS AT THE START. EGGMAN SENDING IN MERCENARIES? BREEZIE OBVIOUSLY MANIPULATING THE FIGHTS?
I CAME HERE FOR SELF-PROMOTION. YOU CAME HERE TO SAVE THE WORLD!
YOU NEED TO BE IN THAT FINAL ROUND. YOU NEED TO WIN THAT EMERALD.
THANKS. BUT WE STILL HAVE TO GIVE THE PEOPLE A SHOW, RIGHT?
OH--
--ABSOLUTELY!
WHAM!


CRACK
ZWEEE!
FOOM!
CHAO COLA!
RUN FASTER! SWIM FARTHER!
CHAO COLA
BREEZTV--DON'T GAMBLE ON YOUR ENTERTAINMENT.

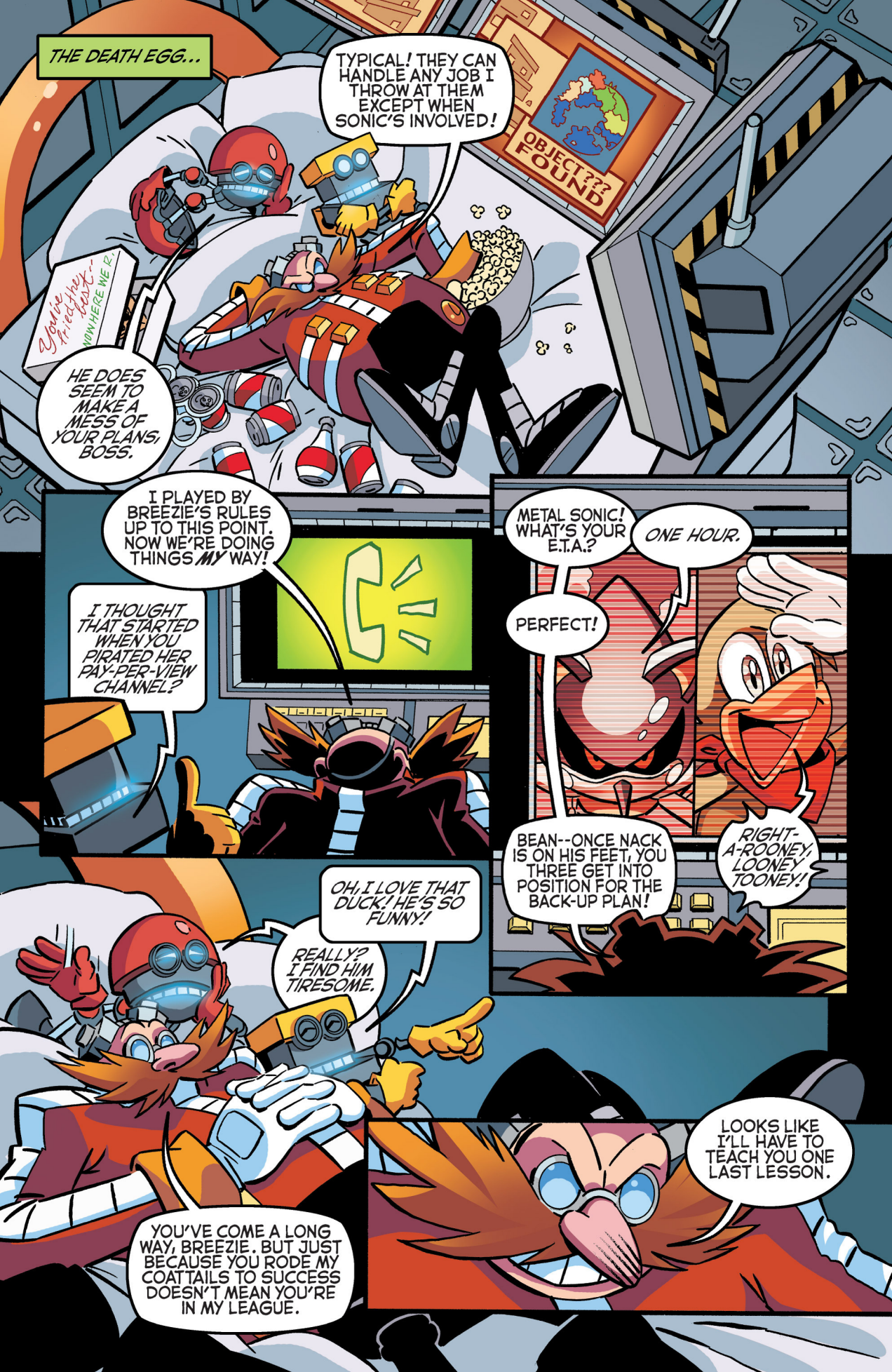

WWOOSH!
YOU ALREADY PULLED THAT TRICK ON TAILS...
GYEEP!
FOOM!
THAT WAS SO COOL!
CHAO BOOM!
NEW EPISODES EVERY SATURDAY @6:00!
BREEZTV--MORE OF WHAT YOU WANT.

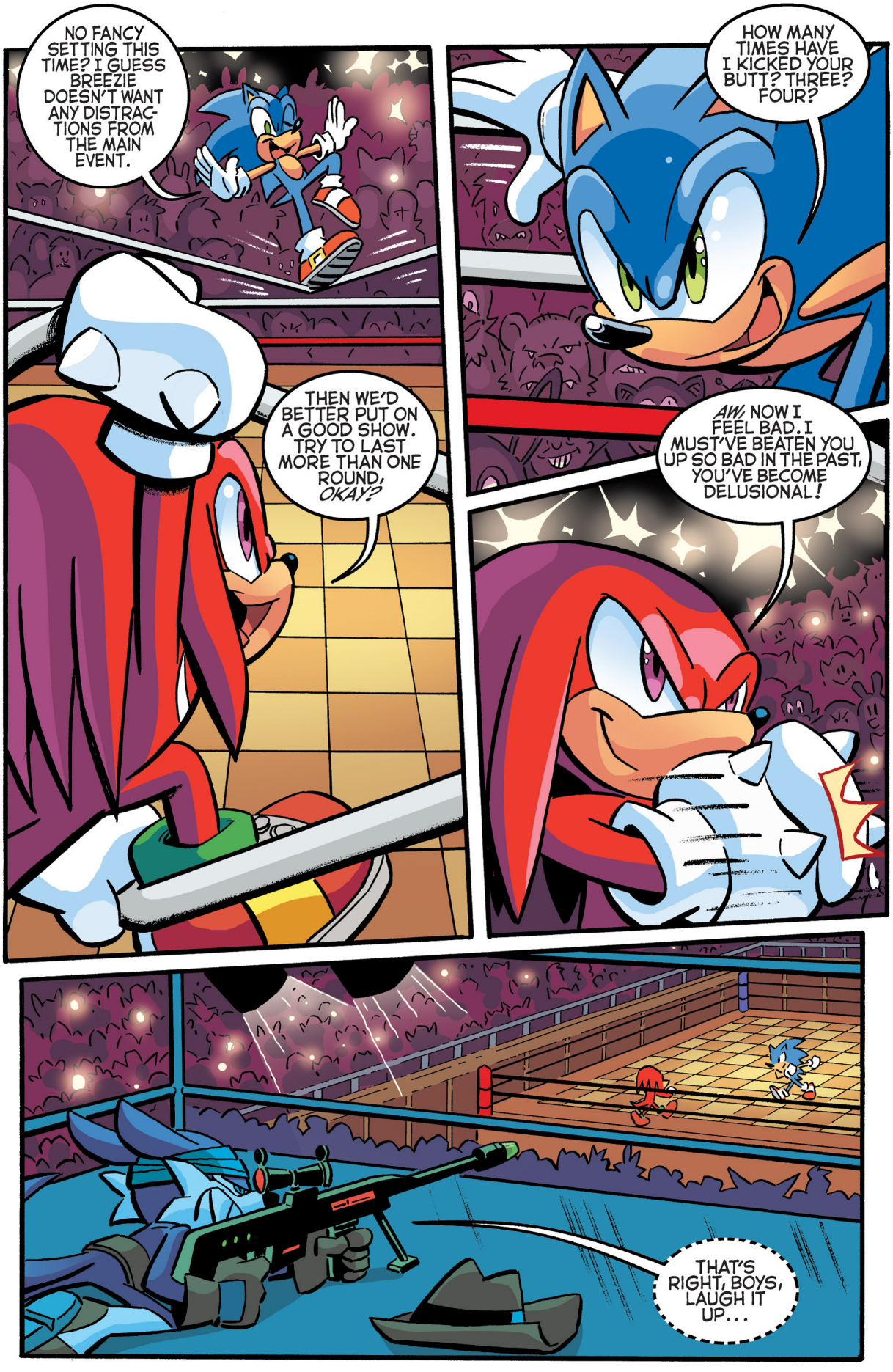

AND NOW A WORD FROM OUR SPONSOR...
FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS...
...TO BEING ON TOP OF THE WORLD...
CASINOPOLIS, WESTSIDE ISLAND...
SONIC MAN, WEEKNIGHTS @8:00!
CHAO IN SPACE 3-- THIS SUMMER.
...BREEZE MEDIA HAS BECOME THE WORLD'S NUMBER ONE CHOICE IN GAMING, TELEVISION AND MOVIE ENTERTAINMENT!
JACKPOT
WITH BREEZE MEDIA, EVERYBODY CAN BE A WINNER!™

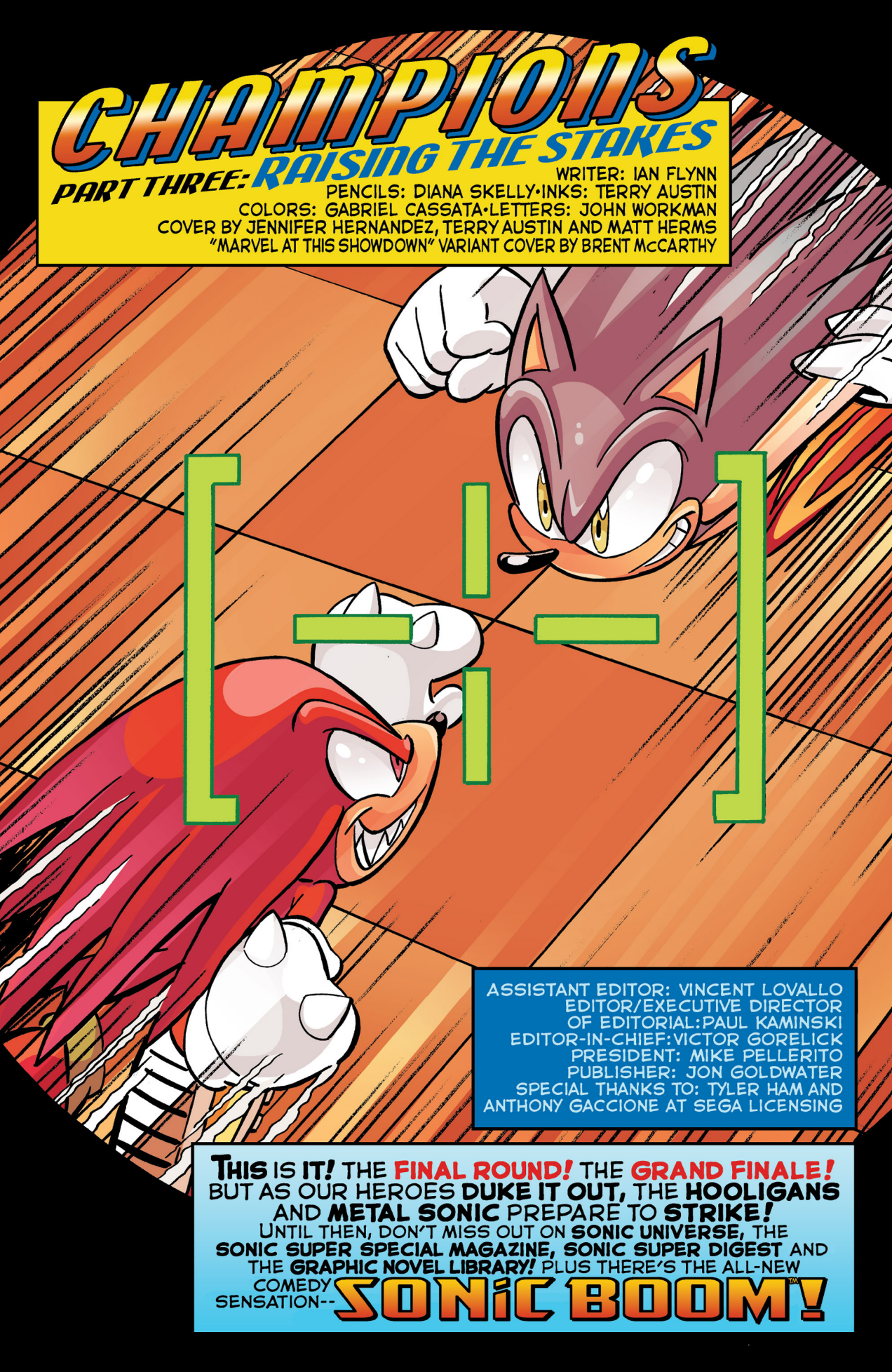

"...EVERYBODY CAN BE A WINNER!™"
JACKPOT!
SURE. PULL THE OTHER ONE, YOU MANIPULATIVE SO-AND-SO...
CHEER UP, KNICK-NACK! YOU MADE IT TO THE SEMI-FINALS!
NO THANKS TO YOU.
PAH! I WAS ONLY THROWING TINY EXPLOSIVES...
OKAY... GOING UP AGAINST KNUCKLES. AND I DON'T HAVE MY BLASTER THIS TIME...
ANY SUGGESTIONS?
GET IN HIS HEAD? YEAH... PSYCHE HIM OUT! GOOD IDEA, BARK!
EVERYONE KNOWS HOW DUMB HE IS. AND SINCE I'M SO CRAFTY... HEH-HEH, THIS ONE'S IN THE BAG!


FIGHT!
YOU SURE YOU WANT TO DO THIS?
YOU MIGHT SCREW IT UP--LIKE EVERY-THING ELSE!
WAY TO KNOCK YOUR FRIEND OUT OF THE ARENA! I THOUGHT YOU WERE HERE TO HELP? YOU JUST MADE MY JOB EASIER!
AND HOW 'BOUT THAT MASTER EMERALD, HUH? YOU CAN'T KEEP IT TOGETHER, CAN YOU? IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE --HA!
paf!
WASSAMATTER? GONNA CRY? ASHAMED YOU'RE SUCH A FAILURE?
JUST WALK ON OUT OF THE RING. I'LL FIND THOSE MASTER EMERALD SHARDS FOR YA!
YO! HELLO? DID I BREAK YOU ENTIRELY OR--?
JUST WAITING FOR YOU TO HOLD STILL FOR A SECOND.

WHAM!
WHAM!
THWOK!
CRASH!
WINNER


THE DEATH EGG...
TYPICAL! THEY CAN HANDLE ANY JOB I THROW AT THEM EXCEPT WHEN SONIC'S INVOLVED!
OBJECT ??? FOUND
HE DOES SEEM TO MAKE A MESS OF YOUR PLANS, BOSS.
I PLAYED BY BREEZIE'S RULES UP TO THIS POINT. NOW WE'RE DOING THINGS MY WAY!
I THOUGHT THAT STARTED WHEN YOU PIRATED HER PAY-PER-VIEW CHANNEL?
METAL SONIC! WHAT'S YOUR E.T.A.?
ONE HOUR.
PERFECT!
BEAN--ONCE NACK IS ON HIS FEET, YOU THREE GET INTO POSITION FOR THE BACK-UP PLAN!
RIGHT-A-ROONEY, LOONEY TOONEY!
OH, I LOVE THAT DUCK! HE'S SO FUNNY!
REALLY? I FIND HIM TIRESOME.
YOU'VE COME A LONG WAY, BREEZIE. BUT JUST BECAUSE YOU RODE MY COATTAILS TO SUCCESS DOESN'T MEAN YOU'RE IN MY LEAGUE.
LOOKS LIKE I'LL HAVE TO TEACH YOU ONE LAST LESSON.


NO FANCY SETTING THIS TIME? I GUESS BREEZIE DOESN'T WANT ANY DISTRACTIONS FROM THE MAIN EVENT.
THEN WE'D BETTER PUT ON A GOOD SHOW. TRY TO LAST MORE THAN ONE ROUND, OKAY?
HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I KICKED YOUR BUTT? THREE? FOUR?
AW, NOW I FEEL BAD. I MUST'VE BEATEN YOU UP SO BAD IN THE PAST, YOU'VE BECOME DELUSIONAL!
THAT'S RIGHT, BOYS, LAUGH IT UP...


CHAMPIONS
PART THREE: RAISING THE STAKES
WRITER: IAN FLYNN
PENCILS: DIANA SKELLY•INKS: TERRY AUSTIN
COLORS: GABRIEL CASSATA•LETTERS: JOHN WORKMAN
COVER BY JENNIFER HERNANDEZ, TERRY AUSTIN AND MATT HERMS
"MARVEL AT THIS SHOWDOWN" VARIANT COVER BY BRENT McCARTHY
ASSISTANT EDITOR: VINCENT LOVALLO
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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: VICTOR GORELICK
PRESIDENT: MIKE PELLERITO
PUBLISHER: JON GOLDWATER
SPECIAL THANKS TO: TYLER HAM AND ANTHONY GACCIONE AT SEGA LICENSING
THIS IS IT! THE FINAL ROUND! THE GRAND FINALE!
BUT AS OUR HEROES DUKE IT OUT, THE HOOLIGANS AND METAL SONIC PREPARE TO STRIKE!
UNTIL THEN, DON'T MISS OUT ON SONIC UNIVERSE, THE SONIC SUPER SPECIAL MAGAZINE, SONIC SUPER DIGEST AND THE GRAPHIC NOVEL LIBRARY! PLUS THERE'S THE ALL-NEW COMEDY SENSATION--
SONIC BOOM!™

SONIC GRAMS

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Dear 'Sonic Grams,'
I loved Sonic when I was a kid. I played the games, watched the shows and read the comic. I read the recent issue #268 and I see you have brought Scratch, Grounder, Coconuts and even Breezie from the *Adventures of Sonic the Hedgehog* show. The issue also has Honey the Cat mention her "Dream-casters" clothing line. I used to own the Sega Dreamcast. I'm amazed how much Sonic (and Sega) nostalgic Easter Eggs are in the comic series. Thank you very much.

Andrew R. sent to Sonic@ArchieComics.com

Thanks for the letter, Andrew! I'm glad you're enjoying the new storyline and revived characters! We're big fans of all things Sonic as well! Our master scribe, Ian Flynn, is a Sonic expert and has managed to cleverly incorporate the more obscure characters that fans love into the comic universe for all to enjoy.

Dear Sonic grams,
HELLO ARCHIE SONIC PEOPLE!!!!!

HEY ARCHIE SONIC FAN!!!

You guys are THE AWESOMEST! I will have the usual!

YOU SHALL HAV-- Oh, you said it already. Dang!

First of all, is Chip ever going to meet Sonic the Werehog and will Sonic turn into a Werehog and scare everyone?

Maaaybe...

Third, is Honey good or no?

Honey can be a bit crazy, especially when it comes to fighting and fashion. She's competitive and sneaky, but she's sure to do the right thing, at least, we THINK so...

Lastly, when Nack shoved Bean and Bark back when he saw the Freedom Fighters, was he startled that Sonic was there, or was he scared of Amy? Tell Tracy Yardley and Ian Flynn to PLEASE make more AWESOME stories like that!

Grace B. sent to Sonic@ArchieComics.com

Thanks, Grace! Nack was surprised to see Sonic and crew and wanted to keep a low profile before the tournament!

See y'all next time for the chaotic conclusion to "Champions"!

COMING SOON!

"THE ULTIMATE BETRAYAL"
MEGA MAN 45-48

"EVERYBODY'S SUPER SONIC RACING"
SONIC BOOM 6-7

"SPARK OF LIFE"
SONIC UNIVERSE 71-74

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